

## **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A damper comprising:
  - at least one damper vane;
  - a motor coupled to the damper vane to move the damper vane;
  - a first port operable in an input mode or an output mode;
  - a second port operable in an input mode when the first port is operable in the output mode, and operable in an output mode when the first port is operable in the input mode.
2. The damper of claim 1, further comprising a microcontroller coupled to the first and second ports.
3. The damper of claim 1, further comprising a microcontroller coupled to the first and second ports, wherein the first port operates in the input mode upon receipt of a signal at the first port, and the second port operates in the output mode.
4. The damper of claim 3, wherein the second port operates in the input mode upon receipt of a signal at the second port, and the first port operates in the output mode.
5. The damper of claim 1, wherein the first and second ports both define jack cavities configured to receive identically-shaped plugs.
6. A damper comprising:
  - at least one damper vane;
  - a motor coupled to the damper vane to move the damper vane;
  - a first port including an input stage configured to receive an input and an output stage configured to send an output;
  - a second port including an input stage configured to receive an input and an output stage configured to send an output; and

a microcontroller coupled to the first and second ports, wherein the microcontroller monitors the first and second ports and designates the second port as an output upon receipt of a control signal from the input stage of the first port.

7. The damper of claim 6, wherein the microcontroller sends the control signal on the output stage of the second port.

8. The damper of claim 7, wherein the microcontroller is configured to undesignate the second port after sending the control signal on the output stage of the second port.

9. The damper of claim 6, wherein the first and second ports both define jack cavities configured to receive plugs.

10. The damper of claim 9, wherein the jack cavities of the first and second ports are identical in shape.

11. The damper of claim 6, wherein the first and second ports are interchangeable.

12. An air handling system comprising:

a source of conditioned air; and

an air-handling assembly coupled to the source of conditioned air, the air-handling assembly including:

a diffuser;

a damper including at least one damper vane and a motor coupled to the damper vane to move the damper vane, as well as a first port including an input stage configured to receive an input and an output stage configured to send an output, and a second port including an input stage configured to receive an input and an output stage configured to send an output; and

a microcontroller coupled to the first and second ports, wherein the microcontroller monitors the first and second ports and designates the second port as an output upon receipt of a control signal from the input stage of the first port, and

wherein the microcontroller sends the control signal on the output stage of the second port.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the first and second ports are identical in shape and interchangeable.

14. The system of claim 12, further comprising another air-handling assembly coupled to the source of conditioned air, the air-handling assembly including:

- a diffuser;

- a damper including at least one damper vane and a motor coupled to the damper vane to move the damper vane, as well as a first port including an input stage configured to receive an input and an output stage configured to send an output, and a second port including an input stage configured to receive an input and an output stage configured to send an output; and

- a microcontroller coupled to the first and second ports, wherein the microcontroller monitors the first and second ports and designates the second port as an output upon receipt of a control signal from the input stage of the first port, and wherein the microcontroller sends the control signal on the output stage of the second port.

15. A method for controlling a damper of an air handling system, the damper including first and second ports, the method comprising:

- (a) monitoring the first and second ports for a control signal;
- (b) receiving a first control signal at the first port;
- (c) designating the second port as an output;
- (d) sending the first control signal using the second port;

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:

- (e) receiving a second control signal at the second port;
- (f) designating the first port as the output; and
- (g) sending the second control signal using the first port.